

C O N N E C T I O N

Your Source for Employee Information

AS/400 system in its last year of operation

Most Collin County employees have worked on -- or have at least seen -- the AS/400 system, also called the "green screen" or the "legacy system" for a number of years.

In fact, for some employees, the AS/400 may be the only computing platform they have worked on in a professional setting. After a long history of successfully supporting the primary county applications the AS/400 system is scheduled to retire at the end of 2013.

Over the past few years the county has worked to replace the business functions hosted on the AS/400 system. Applications such as *Odyssey*, *PeopleSoft* and the new SunGard *ONESolution* are, or will be, replacing those functions previously hosted on the AS/400.

Convenience applications such as the office directory and the check-in/check-out board have been converted to Windows based applications and are scheduled to be decommissioned at the end of March 2013.

While this may seem like saying goodbye to a reliable co-worker, it is really an opportunity for the county to continue our track record of deploying cutting edge business technology.

In this age of doing more

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Change of direction

Chuck RUCKEL smiles after being sworn in as the new Justice of the Peace for Precinct 3-1 on Jan. 2, while state District Judge **Cynthia WHEELLESS** greets Judge **Johnny LEWIS**, who retired from the Precinct 3-1 bench after two full terms. Judge Ruckel served almost 20 years with the Sheriff's Office before being elected a Justice of the Peace. More photos on Pages 2 & 3.

Walk Across Texas begins in March

Ready for Walk Across Texas? In 2012, county employees and their friends and family as well as others walked, jogged, swam, and ran more than 99,314 miles in just eight weeks. Along the way, they lost a few pounds, lowered their blood pressure, reduced their stress level and managed their diabetes better.

Walk Across Texas is sponsored by the Extension Service, Health Department and

United Health Care. The program works simply: teams of eight pool their miles to see if they can walk the 800 miles across Texas in eight weeks. Team members do not work out together; in fact, they may not even know each other. Team members may be recruited from friends, co-workers, neighbors or family.

Each team needs a captain and a name. Since teams from other companies may be participating in this event, all county teams should start with a CC (Collin County), such as CC Athletes Feat. This will make it easier

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AS/400 System

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with less, the Information Technology department has implemented a highly virtualized computing environment to support the applications moving from the AS/400. The county currently operates 170 active virtual servers on 43 physical server blades.

Through application server virtualization, the IT department is able to operate 170 virtual application servers using only 43 physical hardware systems.

That means that by virtualizing over 70% of the servers deployed in the county, IT is able to reduce the time, cost and level of effort required to operate those servers. This use of virtualization technology has allowed the IT department to operate at a 70.83% Virtual- to-Physical server ratio as of last September.

— Greg ELLIOTT



2013 Swearing-in

A brief glimpse of the Jan. 2 ceremonies, where 13 county elected officials took the oath of office, some for the first time in their political careers. Clockwise, from below left, are: Commissioner **Chris HILL** speaks with a TV reporter after taking office; state District Judge **Ben SMITH** swears in **Shane WILLIAMS**, newly elected Constable for Precinct 1; and, County Judge **Keith SELF** addresses the audience of officials, family members and well-wishers just before ceremonies began in the Central Jury Room of the Bloomdale Courthouse.

When the lights go out ...

With two relatively new buildings and all the modern technology wrapped into them, there's little need for the last one out to "turn off the lights."

But for those working late or on weekends, we thought we'd pass along a schedule of our lighting and heating-cooling systems in the Bloomdale Courthouse and the Administration Building.

The Admin Building's control system for lighting and air-conditioning and heating runs from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours and weekends only, each department has a thermostat marked for after-hours operation. Pressing the override button will turn on the lighting and the heating-cooling system in that area only, not the whole building.

Just keep in mind, it will also turn itself off automatically after a while to conserve energy. In other words, it's there

when you need it.

When it comes to the parking lot on 2300 Bloomdale, the lights operate on a photo cell for a dusk-to-dawn security.

For the courthouse, the system schedule runs 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with first-floor corridors on 24/7 while other floors run on a minimum lighting schedule after 11 p.m. for lighting in the parking lots, the front lot comes on at 5:30 a.m. and goes off at 7 a.m. The back parking lot for employees works off a photo cell that runs a dusk-to-dawn schedule.

And the escalators: they turn off at 10 p.m. on Friday and come back on at 6 a.m. Monday morning. Through the week, they run all the time.





Highly rated CAFR — for 34th time

During Commissioners Court in January, State District Judge **John ROACH, Jr.**, presented Auditor **Jeff MAY** with the Government Finance Officers Association certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting by the Collin County Auditor's Office. This marks the 34th consecutive year the Auditor's Office has received the recognition. The award is presented to offices whose work in their Comprehensive Annual Financial Report helps promote financial transparency in local government for taxpayers.

Walk

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to track county teams. The captain agrees to register the team and each member on-line. All team members report their weekly miles to their team captain, who logs it in. At the end of the eight weeks, team members complete a wrap-up form and the captain enters it.

Don't enjoy walking? No problem. All kinds of activities may be converted to miles on the on-line equivalent chart.

Teams officially start on Sunday, March 3 and end on Saturday, April 27. All teams should be registered on-line by Friday, March 1. For those captains who register their team by the deadline, their name will go into a random drawing for a gift card. More details about weekly random drawings for prizes and other incentives will be announced to

team captains by March 3.

Gather your team and email **Carrie BRAZEAL** the team name and team captain. Team captains will receive more details, including directions and the website. Don't have a team or need one or two more for your team? Contact Carrie at Ext. 4231 and we'll see what we can do. The *Holy Walkamollies*, the team that walked the most miles last year, is getting geared up for 2013. Who's going to challenge them?

HR spotlight: Falling into the right career path

If Julie RUTHERFORD could describe in one word how she came to work in Human Resources, it would be "serendipity."

Shortly after deciding that the hospitality industry wasn't going to allow the work-life balance she desired, Julie applied for and was selected to fill the HR Assistant position for Collin County.

"I had no idea whether I would even like Human Resources, but I knew I could do a good job. Luckily, I fell into just the right career path."

In her current position of Functional Analyst, Julie helps maintain the PeopleSoft system, generates reports, and supports the online Recruiting process. Her favorite thing about her job is creating reports that enable other people to do their work more efficiently.

As someone who grew up in Allen, attended college in Denton, and is now living and working in McKinney, Julie is



the ultimate local yokel. She still goes to the occasional Allen High School football game, though she admits going more to see the marching band

perform than to cheer on the football team.

Her favorite local attraction is the historic square in McKinney, where she enjoys supporting the small businesses such as Patina Green, Snug and especially Cadillac Pizza Pub. Julie loves living in North Texas and can't imagine moving anywhere else - unless it was somewhere with a fantastic snow skiing area.

When not at work, Julie is always looking for creative outlets whether it is gardening, attempting a carpentry project, re-painting a bedroom for the umpteenth time, or offering her services as a Holiday Decorator to those who need assistance decking their halls.

Most of Julie's creative energy is currently being redirected to work on her Masters of Business Administration. She lives with her husband of 7 years, two wonderful rescue dogs, and the occasional foster cat.

31 years' service

Marletta SCRIBNER (l.) retired in December after 31 years of service to Collin County. A reception was held to honor Marletta's years of dedication and commitment. District Attorney **Greg WILLIS** (r.) presented Marletta with her retired DA badge. As a felony investigator, Marletta was assigned to the Crimes Against Children Division and has always been an advocate for abused children and victims. She received the 2011 TDCAA Chuck Dennis Investigator of the Year Award, which exemplifies commitment to serving the community and law enforcement. Marletta will be greatly missed.





A 40-year run

Judy CONAWAY (center) of the District Clerk's Office retired in December and, during her retirement reception was presented her plaque by three members of the Commissioners Court. From left, Commissioner **Matt SHAHEEN**, Commissioner **Joe JAYNES** and County Judge **Keith SELF**. Dozens of current and former co-workers showed up to send Judy off into retirement who, at the time, was the longest-serving county employee.

Facilities Maintenance

Keeping a close eye on electronic security systems

M meet John ZOSKI, our Facilities Maintenance Tech I. John was hired June 2005 in the Grounds Department, and was promoted in February 2008 to the position of Maintenance Specialist, working in the various detention facilities, including maintaining the interior and exterior of facilities, ensuring lights are working properly, moving of offices and furniture, assisting with remodeling of County Buildings, performing minor electrical and plumbing repairs, and performing monthly fire safety inspections of elevators.

He assisted technicians with plumbing issues, electrical issues, and repairs on kitchen equipment, laundry equipment, and automated doors at the detention facilities, intercoms and cameras at the detention facilities.

He also assists with the Jail Inspection each year, which has been important to

other departments as well.

John's training has expanded further to include the Automated Doors in the detention facilities, where he troubleshoots any problems with door and lock operations.

He and other maintenance team members have taken on added training for the Programmable Logic Controls System used in the detention facilities, which involves the inner workings of the intercom and camera system, and lighting in the clusters and cells.

Due to the experience John received as a Maintenance Specialist, he has recently been promoted to a Building Maintenance Technician I, under the supervision of **Terry BABBITT**, where he inspects equipment, repairs and replaces compressors, motors, filters and belts, troubleshoots electrical problems and performs basic repairs among other duties.



Dan JAMES, Director of Facilities Maintenance, and the management team would like to congratulate John on his promotion and recognize him for his excellent work ethic and contribution to Collin County Government and the maintenance of those buildings.

— **Patty JOHNSON**



33+ years for Chief Clark

Assistant Chief **Randy CLARK** (right) was honored with a retirement reception in celebration of 33-plus years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office by **Sheriff Terry BOX**. His law enforcement career with the CCSO began in 1979 as Detention Officer when the Sheriff's Office was located in downtown McKinney. From 1981 through 1997 he moved up through the ranks serving as Patrol Deputy and Criminal Investigator, Detention Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Jail Administrator and Major. He was promoted to Assistant Chief Deputy in 2002.

Cook retires after 10 years

Account Clerk **Shirley COOK** recently retired with ten years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. She was congratulated by Sheriff Terry Box & presented a retirement plaque.



McClellan retires with 27 years

Deputy **Hugh McCLELLAN** retired with twenty-seven years of dedicated service with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Terry Box congratulated Deputy McClellan as he presented him with a retirement plaque.



Recent Promotions



Deputy **AI ROMAN** (l.) received a promotion to Patrol Sgt. and was presented his Sergeant's badge.



New employee, Patrol Deputy **Chris WAL-LACE** (r.) was sworn in by Sheriff Box during a recent ceremony.



Patrick MENEFEE (l.) was promoted from Transfer Deputy to Detention Training Deputy.



Jessica POND (r.) received a promotion from Transfer Deputy to Detention Training Deputy.



Bill PONDER (l.) received a promotion from Detention Lieutenant to Detention Captain.



Scholarship

Shelby DOWNS (r.) is a recent recipient of a \$500 SAT Scholarship, awarded by the Sheriff's Association of Texas. Shelby is a student at North Texas State University. She is the daughter of **Lawana DOWNS** (of Sheriff's Office Administration) and husband **Mike DOWNS**.



25 years Service

After 15 years as a Texas State Trooper, **Rodney NEAL** joined the Collin County District Attorney's office as an investigator. In his 25 years, Rodney has served with distinction in virtually every area of the office and his service includes work on numerous major cases. His current assignment is with one of the felony trial teams. For the past 10 years, Rodney has shared his extensive knowledge by teaching courses to police recruits at the Collin County Law Enforcement Academy. These courses include training on the US and Texas Constitutions, criminal investigations, and report writing.



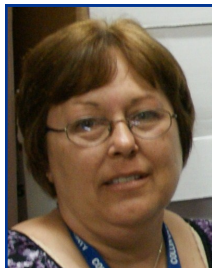
26 Years Service

Hope ROBINSON celebrated 26 years of service with Collin County. She started working for Collin County part time in 1986 with the Records Department. During her time with the Records Department, Hope has played crucial roles in successfully completing many projects, such as with the Sheriff's office as well as Elections. Hope lives in McKinney with her husband Bobby and daughter Janasha, son Jerico is attending Oklahoma State University.



25 years service

Congratulations to **Cindy WEBB** on 25 years of service with Collin County. Cindy lives in Farmersville with her husband Dale Ray. They have three children, Cody, Dacia and



Brandon and five grandchildren with another on the way. She started working for Collin County with Records in 1987. We really appreciate Cindy's time with the county and the expertise she has developed in her area.

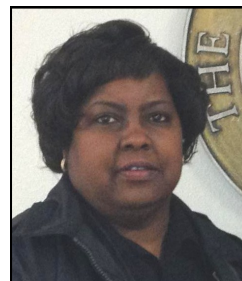
Public Works

Tammi KOCH and **Brett HESLET** of Public Works celebrated service anniversaries during Commissioners Court in late January. Bret is the road and bridge superintendent, and has served 10 years for the county. Tammi, the office coordinator for Public Works, celebrates 10 years of service.



20 Years Service

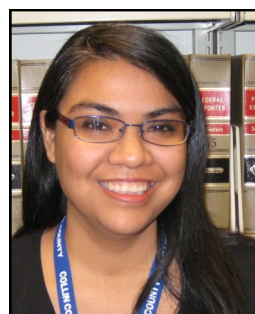
Juvenile Supervision Officer **Denise MUONEKE** (r., above) received her 20-year service pin. Denise earned a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice from East Texas State University in 1991. She initially started her career with CCSO before joining juvenile detention in 1992. Denise serves in the specialized Post Adjudication Detention Program specifically working with kids in treatment. Denise says: "If I have made a difference in just one child's life during the course of my career, it has been well worth it."



District Clerk



Clockwise from upper left, **Barbara PHARR** received her 5-year service pin; new District Clerk employees (l-r) **Linda HERRERA**, criminal front counter clerk who came to us from a law firm, **Tana YORK**, a civil front counter clerk who recently graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice from UNT, and **Lucy VAN De LOO**, a civil front counter clerk who recently graduated with her paralegal degree; **Claudia GOMEZ** joined our Plano Passport office from her most recent job working with microchips.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emery Francis SLOAN, born on Oct. 14, 2012 at 4:52 a.m., weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce and 18.5 inches long. Proud parents **Taylor FRANCIS** (County Clerk Court Registry) and **Michael SLOAN**.



CLASSIFIEDS

JEWELRY: James Avery "Heart to Heart" bracelet. Size Small. \$50 This was a Christmas gift and was worn only a few times. Girl-friend broke up/her loss, your gain. Glad she gave it back! My son paid \$94 for this! Call 214-551-9622, text or voicemail.



FURNITURE: Pine and antiqued white hutch, dining table and 6-chair set. \$650 OBO. Also, Tempurpedic Cali-King Mattress, box springs and covered with mattress pad protector, never been directly touched,, Still under manufactures warranty and I have all the original paper work from Haverty's. Originally paid \$2,400+. Can be yours for only \$800. King Size Pine Bed, Men's dresser and end table for \$300 OBO. All available in McKinney for pick up only. Can provide additional pictures. Call or text Dena, 972-415-1353.



gain lean muscle mass, or just feel better then take the step. For more info, email Christie Hix at mylittleman-cash@yahoo.com.

FURNITURE:

Overstuffed leather sofa and loveseat, \$600; Hard wood dining room set with china hutch and cabinet, 8 upholstered chairs and leaf, 900; This End Up wooden bunk bed set with mattresses and Bunkie boards, \$300. Please contact Linda Flannery (wirickflan@yahoo.com) if you are interested or would like more information.



FOOSBALL TABLE:

About 3 years old but rarely played on. Still in very good condition. \$40. Also, air hockey table, about 5 years old, \$10. Call Patricia CAMPBELL at 972-345-2320 or Ext. 4641.



CUSTOM WREATHS:

Mesh Wreaths for Any Reason; holidays, birthdays, weddings, baby, every day, or ? Can be used as money wreaths. Contact Melinda at Ext. 4196.



March is ... Purchasing Month

No, it doesn't mean we can go out and snap up all the office supplies on sale.

But the Purchasing Department is inviting you to celebrate Purchasing Month with an open house on March 22, from 2-4 p.m. The staff will be serving light refreshments while offering County employees and the public the opportunity to meet with Collin County's dedicated team of purchasing professionals who help make a difference in governmental efficiency and effectiveness.

We'll post more online at MyCollinCounty's main pages.



WEIGHT LOSS: Was one of your New Years' resolutions to lose weight. Then join in the Crusade for Health with Zeal Weight Management Zeal for Life Challenge. If you are looking to lose inches, manage your weight,